

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1151 without my signature.

This bill will seriously compromise public safety by prohibiting some of the most serious juvenile offenders from being treated as adults in the criminal justice system. This measure will weaken provisions of juvenile justice reform as passed by the voters by a wide margin of support in March 2000. Proposition 21, entitled the Gang Violence and Juvenile Crime Prevent Act, was passed by voters to toughen the law against dangerous juvenile criminals and to hold them fully accountable for their actions.

Current law permits serious juvenile offenders to be tried in the adult criminal court if certain conditions are met. SB 1151 will make it difficult to send juveniles with serious crimes to be tried in adult court as contemplated by the voters. Case law on this issue is clear and provides the necessary judicial discretion to ensure appropriate juvenile offenders are directed out of the adult system. This bill will have the effect weakening the law as it relates to criminal liability for murderers and rapists, and accomplices to serious crimes such as carjacking, and subject those convicted to early release.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger